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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

October 5, 2018

**CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN CAUCUS**

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CONGRESSIONAL KIDS
SAFETY CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR

Mr. Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

As Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Kids' Safety Caucus, I write to echo the concerns expressed by Dr. Phillip J. Landrigan and Dr. Lynn R. Goldman in Wednesday's *New York Times* article "A Bad Move That Could End Up Exposing Kids to Chemicals." They cautioned: "we worry that [placing Dr. Ruth Etzel, the Director of the Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) on administrative leave] signals one of two actions: closing the office, which has argued for tougher regulations on industrial pollutants, or minimizing its role in rule-making." It is my sincere hope that neither of these results is a desired end of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As you know, the manner in which prolonged exposure to chemicals impacts children differs greatly from the manner in which it impacts adults. Exposure to even low levels of toxic chemicals during pregnancy and the first years of life can damage cognitive function and developing organs, leading to an increased risk of learning disabilities, A.D.H.D., dyslexia, autism, and breathing difficulties. For more than two decades, OCHP has fought to protect American children from these outcomes and they should be allowed to continue to do so.

As the mother of two young children, I thank you for your attention to this matter and await your response. I look forward to working with you to protect all of America's children and urge you to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns you may have. Your staff may contact Rachana Shah of my staff at Rachana.Shah@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-2601.

Sincerely,


Grace Meng
Member of Congress